CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub B1

1. A method of servicing requests for delivery of a media
content file in a network of client-server computing
5   systems in which a client computer makes an inquiry to
an origin server to locate a media server associated
with the origin server which stores the media content
file, and wherein a local media cache is located
within the network at a point near the client, the
10 method comprising the steps of:

at the client, requesting delivery of the media
content file by requesting from the origin server the
delivery of a media redirection file (MRF) containing
a redirection object specifying instructions for
15 obtaining the media content file from the media
server; and

prior to delivery of the media redirection file
to the client, intercepting the media redirection file
and rewriting the instructions contained therein so
20 that the media content file is obtained from the local
media cache by the client instead of from the media
server directly.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of
intercepting the media redirection file is performed
25 at a node in the network near the client.

3. A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of
intercepting the media redirection file is performed
at an intermediate node in the network.

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4. A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of intercepting the media redirection file is performed at the origin server.

5. A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of intercepting the media redirection file is modified at a link layer.

6. A method as in claim 1 wherein the local media cache is selected from among multiple media caches.

7. A method as in claim 1 wherein the media content file is stored in the local media cache prior to the client requesting delivery of the media content file.

8. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the step of:

determining an observed link bandwidth for file transfers between the local media cache and the client; and

rewriting the instructions in the media redirection file to specify one of a plurality of media content files depending upon the observed link bandwidth.

9. A method as in claim 6 wherein the multiple media caches are arranged and selected in accordance with a fault tolerance capability.

10. A method as in claim 1 wherein the multiple media caches are arranged as a cache cluster.

SUB A1 →

~~11.~~ A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the step of:

charging the user of the client computer a premium for intercepting media redirection files.

5   12. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the step of:

before rewriting the instructions contained in the media redirection file, determining if the media content file is stored at the local cache server.

10   13. A method as in claim 1 wherein the step of rewriting the instructions further comprises the step of rewriting an <href> tag within the media redirection file to insert a Uniform Resource Location (URL) of the media cache.

ADD B2 →